



Guide to Commercial Licenses and Reporting



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Helpful Contacts

Commercial Reporting

Commercial Reporting Hotline: 1-800-893-2722

Online Reporting: Sarah Raines, 410-260-8314

eCrab Reporting: Kara Muzia, 410-990-4970

Permits and Compliance

Permitted Species: Chris Jones, 410-260-8293

Regulations

General Questions: 410-260-8300

Oyster & Clam Regulations: Frank Marengi, 410-260-8302

Visit the Commercial Fisheries webpage for more information:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/index.asp>

Commercial Regulations

Regulations change throughout the year. The best way to learn about applicable regulations is to search the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/>. Visit the DNR Fisheries Regulations webpage at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp> for regulations summaries by species and gear type as well as proposed or draft regulations.

COMAR Online:

There are three different ways to search for regulations in COMAR.

1. The first is a keyword search that brings up all regulations with that keyword, or search for a specific codification number. Some species have many common names, so if one name produces no results, try the other name (i.e. use striped bass instead of rockfish).
2. The second option is a keyword search within a specific title. Select the title "08" for the Department of Natural Resources and search for a keyword or codification number within that title.
3. The third option is to navigate through the Table of Contents. Choose "Title 08" for the Department of Natural Resources. From there, choose the subtitle "02 Fisheries Service". Select one of the chapters to view a list of all the regulations in that chapter.

Problem Solver | Maryland.gov | Online Services | State Agencies | Phone Directory

Search

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

HOME SOS FAQ DIRECTORY FORMS SITE MAP CONTACT US

John P. McDonough, Secretary of State
Brian Morris, Acting Administrator, Division of State Documents

Search Options for COMAR Online

Option 1. [Search on a word or phrase, or enter the codification number](#)
(search is word specific unless you add an asterisk *)

Option 2. [Search a specific Title](#)
(will search only that title for word or codification number)

Option 3. [Access through Table of Contents Structure](#)
(will display table of contents by Title, Subtitle & Chapter)

Important Information:

In August 2003, the **State Ethics Commission Advisory Opinions** were no longer printed in COMAR Title 19A, but are available **ONLY** as part of COMAR Online. They can be accessed or searched using all three search options.
[Search Option 1:](#) (ex. 79.01)
[Search Option 2:](#) select Advisory Opinions link under 19A (which limits the results returned).
[Search Option 3:](#) Advisory Opinion's listed by year. This option will return the opinions in that year.

Effective Dates:

- COMAR regulations are effective to date.
- COMAR is updated biweekly corresponding with the effective dates in the most current [Maryland Register](#) issue.

Maryland Annotated Code

In addition to COMAR, read the Maryland Annotated Code online at <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/>. Scroll down to "Natural Resources" and click [+](#) then click [+](#) for "Title 4: Fish and Fisheries". Choose the [+](#) next to the applicable subtitle to view the laws.

Public Notices

For certain species, DNR may modify catch limits, size limits, quotas, or open or close a season by public notice. To view these public notices, visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/notices/notices.asp>.

Still have questions about regulations? Call 410-260-8300

License Types

The following commercial licenses are available through DNR:

License Name	Abbreviation	Annual Fee	Description
Limited Crab Harvester	LCC	\$100	Allows the use of up to 50 crab pots to harvest crabs.
Crab Harvester - 300 pots	CB3	\$150	Allows the use of up to 300 crab pots to harvest crabs.
Crab Harvester - 600 pots	CB6	\$100	Allows the use of up to 600 crab pots to harvest crabs. Must already have a CB3 or TFL
Crab Harvester - 900 pots	CB9	\$150	Allows the use of up to 900 crab pots to harvest crabs. Must already have a CB3 or TFL
Finfish - Hook & Line	HLI	\$100	Allows the use of hook and line in the tidal waters of Maryland, except the Potomac River, to harvest finfish.
Unlimited Finfish Harvester	FIN	\$150	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest finfish.
Unlimited Tidal Fish	TFL	\$300	Comprehensive license covering all license types. Must pay an oyster surcharge of \$300 in order to harvest oysters.
Oyster Harvester	OYH	\$100	Allows the use of diving, tonging, or hand-scraping to harvest oysters. Must pay an oyster surcharge of \$300 in order to harvest oysters.
Oyster Dredge Boat	ODB	\$250	Allows the use of a dredge boat to harvest oysters. Must pay an oyster surcharge of \$300 in order to harvest oysters.
Clam Harvester	CLM	\$100	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest clams.
Conch, Turtles & Lobster	CTL	\$100	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest conch, turtles, and lobsters.
Resident Fishing Guide	FGR	\$100	Allows a Maryland resident to provide services as a fishing guide in the tidal waters of Maryland. Must have U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license.
Nonresident Fishing Guide	FGN	\$200	Allows a nonresident to provide services as a fishing guide in the tidal waters of Maryland. Must have U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license.
Master Guide	FGV	\$100	A per vessel charge. Allows licensee to hire a captain without a fishing guide license, but who possesses a U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license.
Seafood Landing	SFL	\$350	Allows the landing and selling in Maryland of fish, scallops, and certain shellfish harvested outside of state waters.
Seafood Dealer	FDL	\$250	Other than a licensee. Allows the buying and selling of seafood caught in Maryland waters.

Individuals who would like to obtain a commercial tidal fish license are put on a waiting list until a license becomes available. The waiting lists are maintained by the DNR Service Centers. To find the nearest Service Center, visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov/service/center.asp>.

Permit Types

You MUST have a permit to catch certain species in Maryland. These include:

- Black Sea Bass*
- Horseshoe Crab*
- Snapping Turtle
- Striped Bass
- Summer Flounder*
- Yellow Perch

*Permitted species with bycatch allowances. For details, visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/table.asp?c=commercial> or search the [Code of Maryland Regulations](#).

Below is a table that shows which license types are eligible to receive each permit.

Permit Type	License Required				
	TFL	FIN	HLI	CTL	SFL
Black Sea Bass	X	X			X
Horseshoe Crab	X	X			
Snapping Turtle	X			X	
Striped Bass	X	X	X		
Summer Flounder	X	X	X		X
Yellow Perch	X	X	X		

Limited Entry Fisheries:

- **Black Sea Bass:** Individuals need a federal permit and a federally registered vessel in addition to a Maryland permit. Permit holders are assigned a certain percentage of the annual quota at the beginning of the season, whereby they have all year to catch their assigned percentage.
Fee: \$25
- **Horseshoe Crab:** A daily catch limit is assigned to permit holders based on historical catches from previous years.
Fee: \$25
- **Striped Bass:** Individuals are assigned a share and choose to enter those allocated pounds into either the Common Pool or Individual Transferable Quota fishery.
Fee: \$150 (with TFL), \$200 (with FIN or HLI)
- **Summer Flounder:** Individuals need a federal permit and a federally registered vessel in addition to a Maryland permit. Permit holders are assigned a certain percentage of the annual quota at the beginning of the season, whereby they have all year to catch their assigned percentage.
Fee: \$25

Unlimited Entry Fisheries:

- **Snapping Turtle:** Season open year-round.
Fee: \$25
- **Yellow Perch:** Regulations are area specific: Upper Bay, Chester River, and Patuxent River.
Fee: \$25

Menhaden Bycatch Landing Permit:

Individuals who meet certain criteria may receive a Menhaden Bycatch Landing Permit, which allows permit holders to continue harvesting menhaden after the fishery is closed. Catch limits are announced by public notice.

Commercial Reporting

The following commercial reports must be sent to DNR each month during the time period listed:

- Daily Commercial Fisheries Catch Log (Finfish Report)
Due January through December
- Daily Record of Commercial Crabbing (Crab Report)
Due April through December
- Commercial Charter Boat Captain's Daily Log (Charter Report)
Due April through December
- Maryland Monthly Oyster Report (Oyster Report)
Due October through March
- Maryland Monthly Clam Report (Clam Report)
Due September through August
- Maryland Report of Seafood Buying Activity (Dealer Report)
Due January through December

Report Due Dates

Monthly reports are due to DNR no later than the 10th day following the end of the reporting month (i.e. the April report is due by May 10th). If DNR has not received a report by that time it is considered LATE. The names of those individuals with late reports appear on the "Late Reports" list on the commercial fisheries web-page at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/index.asp>. If the report is still not received by DNR 50 days after the report due date, the licensee receives an official violation. Two or more official violations for any of the report types in a 12 month period may result in a license suspension.

The table below lists which reports each license type is responsible for.

License Type	Abbreviation	Common Report Name				
		Finfish Report	Crab Report	Charter Log	Oyster Report	Clam Report
Limited Crab Harvester	LCC		X			
Crab Harvester - 300/600/900 pots	CB3/CB6/CB9		X			
Finfish - Hook & Line	HLI	X				
Unlimited Finfish Harvester	FIN	X				
Unlimited Tidal Fish	TFL	X	X	*Y	*Z	*O
Oyster Harvester	OYH				*Z	
Oyster Dredge Boat	ODB				*Z	
Clam Harvester	CLM					*O
Conch, Turtles & Lobster	CTL	X				
Resident Fishing Guide	FGR			*Y		
Nonresident Fishing Guide	FGN			*Y		
Master Guide	FGV			*Y		

*O - Only required if the licensee has declared for either hard, soft, razor clams.

*Y - Only required from a licensee with a registered charter vessel.

*Z - Only required if the licensee has paid the oyster surcharge.

Ways to Submit Reports

Mail paper reports to:

Fisheries Service
Attn: Fisheries Statistics Program
580 Taylor Avenue B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Fax to 410-260-8279, Attn: Fisheries Statistics Program.

Find blank reports online at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/index.asp#forms>

Electronic Reporting Options

Online Reporting

Online reporting is available through SAFIS, an online reporting system maintained by the ACCSP. Those who sign up for online reporting can submit their reports for fishing, crabbing, and charter trips as well as seafood dealers. There are many advantages to online reporting. It ensures reports will never be lost in the mail or sent back for correction; the system produces immediate confirmation after submission as well as checking for any errors or missing information. SAFIS also allows users to view their previously submitted reports and print reports for their records. To sign up for online reporting, visit <http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/comreport/comreport.asp>. To watch the tutorials on how to use SAFIS, go to <http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/tutorials/index.asp>.

eCrab Harvest Reporting for Crabbers

An additional electronic reporting option, available to crabbers only, is the eCrab Harvest Reporting Program. This program offers three reporting options: text messaging from a cell phone, a website accessed via a smartphone or tablet, or a call center. All three methods require the individual to hail in and hail out on the days that they crab. During the 2014 season, participants may have a flexible day off. To sign up, contact Kara Muzia at 410-990-4970 or kmuzia@oysterrecovery.org

Questions about reporting? Call the Commercial Reporting Hotline at 1-800-893-2722

Turn to the back cover for instructions on how to fill out a crab or finfish report.

How to fill out Crab and Finfish reports

Place the CRAB barcode for the appropriate month on the report. Please use only one label per report.

Enter harvest for the days you crabbed. Please fill out all information for the gear type & amount, area, hours, and crew. Crew is the number of non license holders.

Record the maximum number of crab pots in the water that month. If you catch eel for bait, record that in the appropriate spaces.

Be sure to sign your report.

MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: FOLD AND MAIL IN ENR ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

DAILY RECORD OF COMMERCIAL CRABBIN 2011

Please place one Crab label with the correct Month, Year and Report Type (Crab)

October 2011

I WILL NOT crab the rest of the season. ☐ If checked, please do not send any more reports for the rest of the season.

MD Vessel Registration Number **MD0001DN**

Circle only **ONE** measure used for hard crabs:
BUSHELS ☒ **DOZENS** ☐ **POUNDS** ☐ **EACH** ☐

JOSEPH FISHMAN
580 TAYLOR AVE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

61993 LCC

1. GEAR codes on reverse side of front page.

2. Amount of gear used as number of traps (Y or F).

3. If TROTLINE circle MEASURE as yards (Y) or feet (F).

4. Water AREA codes on reverse side of front page.

5. Number of HOURS crabbing each day.

6. Number of CREW on board each day.

7. Please indicate the MAXIMUM number of crab pots you had in the water THIS MONTH: **300**

8. Your catch of eels for bait: Pounds this month: **35**
How many days selling: **2**
Average eel pots per day: **20**
Area most worked: **02A**

9. What percentage of your catch did you sell or give to the following:
(Your response is optional)
____ % Restaurant
____ % Dealer
____ % Direct to Public
____ % Personal Use

DATE	GEAR	AMOUNT	TROTLINE MEASURE	AREA	HOURS	CREW	# Y	# F	# Y	# F	# Y	# F	# Y	# F	# Y	# F	# Y	# F
1			Y F															
2			Y F															
3			Y F															
4			Y F															
5			Y F															
6			Y F															
7			Y F															
8			Y F															
9			Y F															
10			Y F															
11			Y F															
12			Y F															
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25			Y F															
26			Y F															
27			Y F															
28			Y F															
29			Y F															
30			Y F															
31			Y F															

Small text: I certify that the information provided on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge, and under no legal duty. Please print name and address on the back of this form and mail to: DNR, P.O. Box 38, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Signature: *Joseph Fishman*

Check the box if you are finished for the year. Please do not send any more reports for the rest of the season.

Write your vessel registration number or documentation number on the line.

Circle only one measure used for hard crabs. Convert all hard crab amounts to the measure you chose. Soft crabs must be in DOZENS, peelers must be in EACH.

DNR Copy - Return to DNR

Write your vessel registration number or documentation number on the line.

Check the box if you did not fish. Write in a month when you will continue fishing. Check the bottom box if you are finished for the year. Please do not send any more reports for the rest of the season.

MD Vessel Registration Number **MD0001DN**

Federal Documentation Number **MD0001DN**

Additional License Holders: Please place any additional license holders on the back of this form and check here: ☒

November 2011

JOSEPH FISHMAN
580 TAYLOR AVE
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

61993 LCC

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Signature: *Joseph Fishman*

Place the FINFISH barcode for the appropriate month on the report. Place additional barcodes on the back of the form.

Enter harvest for the days you fished. Please fill out all required columns. List all species caught, including bait and those species also reported on permit cards. Catch should be in pounds unless you specify otherwise.

Be sure to sign your report.